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THE

Hindu Message

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THE HINDU MESSAGE stands for

(1) Self-Government for India within the British Commonwealth,
(2) Co-operation with the different communities of India without prejudice to Hindu Dharma,
(3) Education of the Hindus as an integral part of the Indian Nation,
(4) Advancement of Material prosperity on a spiritual basis and
(5) Dissemination of pure Hindu Culture.

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A Vision of India.

THE SEVEN HOLY CITIES: AYODHYA.

BY K. S. RAMASWAMI SASTRI, B.A. B.L.,

O city of unconquerable charm
  Whose ageless beauty Time can ne'er assail!
  Thou livest in the sainted poet's tale,
Though now no more life swift and multiform
With glories bright and man's affections warm
  Surge through thy streets and gaily mornings hail.
  What if thy ancient life imperial fail?
Thy life in us is safe from mortal harm.
Ah through Ayodhia shining in my heart
  Sri Rama, Sita, loyal Laxmana
  Walk wood-ward bearing eyes and hearts away.
But soon fulfilling His self-chosen part,
  Sri Ram returns Incarnate Heavenly Law,
  And wears the crown again this blessed day.

Dreams of the Soul.

BY AN INDIAN DREAMER.

C.

Statecraft has its superstitions and horrible murderous bloody rituals even more than priestcraft ever had.

Why should any one Nation overrun the world?

What are your credentials from God to displace His other children?

Why should a dirty cotton rag woven by man's hand be more prized than the wonderful silken fabric of life woven by God?

Is there no better, no more godly, work to do than to deface the work of God?

CI.

The war paint of the uniform dazzles our eyes and fires our imaginations.

We become slaves of nodding plumes and gilded epaulettes.

One murder makes a felon; many murders make a hero.

How is a star-decoration better than a convict's ticket round his neck?

Why should a man who slays his fellowmen be honoured more than a man who serves his fellow-men?

CII.

The General of today is no better than a bandit of old or a knight-errant of the mediaeval ages.

Is the greatness of a country to be measured by latitude and longitude?

The militarist is only a tiger in a human skin.

When will the ape and the tiger in men die and disappear?

Events of the Week.

Mr. M. R. Jayakar's speech at the Marvadi Vidyalaya, during the national week, strikes what we think is the right note in regard to the great task that awaits the nation in these strenuous times. Mr. Jayakar has distinguished himself often before for his great clarity of thinking, for his genuine spirit of sacrifice and for an aptitude for handling high themes in a becoming spirit. His speech appears *in extenso* in the daily press and is mainly in the nature of a comment and explanation of the Bardoli programme. Hence perhaps he did not devote sufficient attention to the other pressing problems, as for example the more aggressive forms of civil disobedience and the like. By which we mean challenging the validity of the acts of the Bureaucracy, in invading our rights, in the courts of the land, as well as fighting them in their Councils. Opinion in the country is now veering round to this alternative and Mr. Gandhi himself has sketched it in a fugitive number of his *Young India.* It is the duty of public men to watch the currents of opinion: and whatever Mr. C. Rajagopalachari may say or think, it is no longer necessary or desirable to keep out of the Councils, Indian or provincial or parochial.

* * *

The whole of Mr. Jayakar's speech was rightly informed by the very excellent purpose of utilising the national week for "doing our little bit to raise up an atmosphere favourable to such a friendly union" of all our countrymen who agree on essentials. And he said that it would be an attempt worthy of those who gave up their lives in 1919. He dilated, with this aim in view and as an illustration, on the three classes of people who went in for khaddar and pleaded for the Congress embracing in its fold all of them impartially. Mr. Natarajan who presided very rightly pointed out thut it was not at all an act of disloyalty to the Mahatma to add to or vary from his programme the least little bit. As we all know the Mahatma himself had often expressed his regret that, though the fire and enthusiasm of the movement had touched many cultured people and had prompted them to make great sacrifices and to dedicate their lives to the service of the country, yet so far as the mass mind was concerned it had not fully realised all the vital principles of his creed. We trust the warning voice of Mr. Natarajan will be given due weight by N. C. O. Die-Hards, that those who wanted to stick literally to the programme might do so, but should not come in the way of those who felt that they ought to work rather in its spirit and on broader lines. For the sake of the immense work that lies before us and for the credit of the country, we trust these N. C. O. leaders who have a great faith in the "coupon" system will desist from their machinations and subterfuges and their vociferous cries to drive out others from the field.

* * *

The Bengal Provincial Conference, which is now meeting at Chittagong, is expected to have a fair contingent of Independents among the delegates, including some very notables: and we look forward to its proceedings in the firm hope that once again Bengal will take the lead in healing the sores in the Congress which only the overpowering influence of Mr. Gandhi had so long kept from festering. We look also with confidence on the increased and increasing sense of responsibility in our publicists in view of the tension in our public affairs. Though there is no indication of any contemplated change in the Congress programme, still we are glad to note that one of the draft resolutions relates to the importance of the Congress capturing local boards and municipalities. If this resolution should be carried to its logical conclusion we think that that Conference will have more than justified itself. The President, Srimati Basanti Devi has in her presidential address rightly voiced this growing sentiment in the country and has advocated the necessity of capturing even the provincial legislature. We await a fuller report of the Conference to see what effect her advice has on the assembly.

* * *

The activities of non-co-operators in controlling municipalities etc, is likely to render them liable to civil action as is shown by an A. P. I. message which states that, in the District Court of Surat, the Secretary of State for India-in-Council has filed a civil suit againt 31 members of the late superseded municipality to recover Rs. 1,79,000 with interest for their alleged illegal expenditure of the amount from municipal coffers in opposition to the provisions of the District Municipal Act.

* * *

Commenting upon the recent appointments of Viscount Peel and Earl Winterton a "Wayfarer" writes in "the Nation and the Athenaeum":—The disorganisation of the Government is seen in nothing more clearly than in the Indian appointments. That men of the first rank should have refused them before the acceptances were announced makes things still worse. It is hard to see what useful quality Lord Peel brings to his task, beyond a great name and the experience of public work. Or if tact, sympathy, an open mind, and a fine temper are thought to be desirable qualities in an Indian Secretary, it is hard to see why the choice should have fallen on Lord Peel. Intellectually, he cannot compare with Mr. Montagu; as a statesman he is woefully below India's need. And Lord Winterton? He is said to have grown up a little, and indeed, there was room for some self-culture. But could Adana, Pharpar, and all the rivers of Damascus wash the schoolboyishness out of Lord Winterton?

* * *

To what extent British trade in cloth and piece goods has suffered as a direct result of the Swadeshi movement can be seen from the statistical returns published by the Government of India. The total value of India's imports of yarns and of textile fabrics from abroad, within the eleven months ended February, 1921, had amounted to 112 crores of rupees, declined to 57 crores and 88 lakhs of rupees in the eleven months ended February 1922, indicating a drop in value of no less than 54 crores of rupees in less than a year! Seeing that in the eleven months ending February 1920 the total imports of yarns and textiles of foreign origin did not exceed 60 crores, one is enabled to appreciate the tremendous effect the Swadeshi and boycott movement has already had on the imports of foreign cloth. Out of the 54 crores of the decline at least 45 crores can be justly stated to fall to the share of Great Britain. If India can keep up the boycott of foreign cloth with the same enthusiasm as it has displayed so far, there is not the least doubt that by the end of this year imports of British cloth and yarn will have shrunk to insignificant proportions. It rests with the nation to accomplish the task and place the indigenous industry on solid foundations, which no adverse circumstances in the future will be able to undermine.

* * *

We take the following from *Methodist Education.* "Generalizations, if possible at all, are possible only after the fullest study and genuine experimentation under Indian conditions. The most scientific attitude, as well as the truest spirit of progress, demands that the newer movements be appraoched with an open mind in the hope of finding something which will vitalize our present methods. Those who condemn this or any other method unheard merely on the ground of its supposed novelty are declining responsibilities which their educational positions put upon them and which their duty to their pupils demands of them. Educational work in its purely professional aspects is not without its moral obligations and there may some day be an educational judgment-day when we shall be called to account for stunted lives—stunted because we have been too conservative, or too pre-occupied, with what are really non-essentials, to make available for our pupils the privileges and opportunities which come through fresh and co-operative thinking."

* * *

The Cochin Government Gazette, Extra-ordinary, announces that His Highness the Maharaja has been pleased to appoint Rao Bahadur P. Narayana Menon B.A., I.S.O., as Diwan of Cochin and that he assumed charge of the office of the Diwan of Cochin on the afternoon of the 13th April 1922.

The Hindu Message

The Malaviya Scheme.

The full text is now available of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya's speech at Allahabad, wherein he adumbrated his scheme of Svaraj. No one will quarrel with the Panditji's definition of Svaraj. "Colonial Self-Government" was the subject of much dialectical ingenuity on the part of one of our nationalist politicians a decade or so ago. The Pandit however has left us in no doubt of what he means. He aims at Dominion Self-government, an Indo-British Commonwealth where India will be an honoured and equal partner, and not a mere attendant at the antechambers that she is now. We do not know if the left wing of the Congress and our fire-eating politicians will agree with Mr. Malavaiya's sober statement of the case.

In spite however of Mr. Andrews' well-reasoned and powerful pleas for independence for India, we do not think there is anything illogical or antipatriotic or impossible at our aiming to be a partner in what then will perforce have to be called the Indo-British Commonwealth. We have taken Mr. Andrew's name because, in our opinion, he has made himself by his speeches and writings the most powerful protagonist of that school which thinks that nothing short of absolute independence will cure our ills. Passing for the moment over the contention often set forth in these pages that the days of isolated sovereign independence for any nation are past beyond recall, we may point out that Mr. Andrews has never told us how best to work for independence. Nor has he shown that Indian independence is necessarily incompatible with every conceivable form of connection with the British Empire, nor if an Indo-British Commonwealth could not be substituted for the present arrangement. The current and prevailing conceptions, mostly mistaken, of the true import of the Empire-idea have completely taken Mr. Andrews off the track and he has nowhere discussed with the same force and eloquence the ideas supplemental or complementary to his position. We think that the actualities of present-day British Imperialistic politics and the stress of world politics point to the fact that India can best attain her goal in and through the British Empire.

The Panditji very rightly drew attention to the necessity of the complete Indianisation of the Army. In words of vital importance he said, although the Parliament had declared that the goal of the British policy in India was self-government, the test of sincerity of that promise was the military policy of the government. So long as we had not the control of the military, all reforms would be a mere sham. We agree.

It is not for a delineation of the conditions of the problem or even the right solution thereof that the country looks up to its leaders, but rather that they should point the right methods for reaching the ideal. And here, though we endorse cordially his plea—and have had occasion often to stress the need—for unity, we are afraid the Panditji did not speak with his usual clearness. For he simply laid stress on the carrying out of the programme laid down at Bardoli. The four main items of that programme are (1) non-violence, (2) unity, (3) removal of untouchability, and (4) *Khaddar*. We have no wish to be hypercritical, nor are we of those who minimise the importance of things supra-mundane or supra-physical. But it seems to us that the independence such a programme is calculated to achieve pertains to the inner world rather than the outer. Granting that this programme is unmodified but rigidly adhered to, we wonder if no other preparation or training is necessary for our people to retain the Svaraj so won and put it to good use. The election and control of democratic assemblies, the finding out of competent men to administer great departments of the state, the creation and training of ambassadors and of soldiers, in short the creation of an efficient State so as to ensure its stability and continuance—does any one dream that this fourfold path will evolve all this ready for us, as Minerva springing from Jove's head. Clearly not. And to comprehend it is surely the beginning of wisdom.

One with a right to an opinion has said somewhere that "non-co-operation" is simply a grievous misnomer for Mr. Gandhi's effort to spiritualise men's outlook on life everywhere and to bring back the joy and freedom which materialism has exiled from our planet. In this view which we think is the only right view, Mr. Gandhi is a prophet of the modern

epoch. The complex nature of his country's problems have drawn him into the vortex of politics. Supposing for a moment that we have attained complete fruition of all our endeavours along the four-fold path, there are only two alternatives possible. One is to be content with the Svaraj of the inner world thus achieved; the other is to run a parallel administration in this country with the eventual and certain result of a resort to arms in order to justify ourselves. Surely this is not the state of things that farsighted Indian nationalism ought to aim at. We think other courses are possible. Standing on the high ground we now occupy it is possible for us to take a line of action *pari passu* with the prosecution of the four-fold programme, and which would have been impossible earlier owing to the then comparatively undeveloped consciousness of the mass mind. We refer to that whole series of principles and politics for which the short name is responsive co-operation. We regret that the Panditji did not pay due attention to this side of the problem.

The Genoa Conference.

The long expected Conference of the Powers has opened at Genoa. Ubiquitious reporters have not failed to remark that it is expected to last near two months, that over 1500 delegates have foregathered there and about 700 journalists. We are also assured that it has opened auspiciously. This optimism is probably due to the report of a contemplated plan of a ten years' truce backed by a mutual guarantee of all the contracting countries taking part in the Conference to maintain present frontiers intact during that period. Hopeful as this sounds, the trials and successive disillusionments of the late years do not justify overmuch of optimism. Those of our readers who have ever followed our reading of the international complications from time to time will not be misled by the loud-tongued wisdom and optimism of pressmen and publicists now in Genoa.

Now what is the genesis of all this series of conferences, of which we have not yet seen the last, with which the Press has been wringing ever since the Peace Treaty. The governing men in old Europe have taken three years to find out what practical economists and financiers warned them about so long ago. The Peace of Versailles instead of helping to its feet a Europe that lay prostrate economically really put additional weights on to its feet. And now desperate attempts are being made to undo the evils of the Peace treaty, which has truly been called iniquitous. What Europe wants today is an assured and equitable peace that would facilitate a reduction in armaments, release capital for trade, render fresh credits possible and help forward the resuscitation of enterprise now dead.

It was this purpose that animated the Supreme Council at Cannes which decided to call for an Economic Conference of all European powers. In pursuance thereof the Genoa Conference is meeting now. That Conference, if it is really to bring peace and economic rehabilitation to old Europe, will have to go again over the whole ground of reparations and to consider the revision of the existing treaties. These two are the vital questions for Germany: and we have just grounds for fearing that these are going to be shelved at Genoa. And thus Genoa is not going to solve the problem of Central Europe.

That so patent a fact should have escaped the protaganists of the Conference is to our mind another indication of the fact that no genuine concern for the peace of Europe but still the same old diplomacy is the guiding factor in European politics. It is well to remember that France is an agrarian and usurer's state; she does not mind the loss of trade if she can maintain her military hegemony and tribute. America is using the present chaos in Europe to make her her financial dependency. Britain alone is the hardest hit by the loss of trade. Russia is the granary of Europe and one of the principal markets for England. France is impartial and does not want to treat with either Germany or Soviet Russia. But her hatred against Soviet Russia is not so great as that against Germany. Hence as a concession to each, Russia has been called in at Genoa and the crucial question of the revision of the peace treaties has been left out. This is an imposture which will not stand long, we fear.

Literary and Educational.

How Shakespeare Worked.

Evidence from Contemporary Manuscripts.

At the Manchester University Mr. J. Dover Wilson continued the series of lectures arranged by the University extra-mural department on "The Age of Shakespear." With the assistance of a series of lantern slides Mr. Wilson lent a persuasive colouring to some interesting theories concerning the writing of Shakespeare's plays which would appear to be incontrovertible in the light of the recent discoveries of Dr. A. W. Pollard and Sir Edward Maunde Thompson in relation to Shakespearean texts.

The lecture was divided into four parts which were confined to a consideration of Shakespeare's handwriting, his spelling, his punctuation, and the manuscripts.

It was now possible, Mr. Wilson said, to get occasional glimpses of original manuscripts which, from the examination of many old documents, it was evident came straight from Shakespeare. Mr. Wilson referred particularly to the old manuscript in the British Museum of the play, "Sir Thomas More," written originally by A. Mundy but revised subsequently by five different hands. Although the manuscript was, not unnaturally, in a state of considerable confusion, one scene of the play, according to Sir Edward Maunde Thompson was in Shakespeare's own handwriting. It was now possible, therefore, to write out a corrupt passage from the text and to form a very shrewd guess as to how the compositors went wrong. The manuscripts also affected the question of the

revision of the plays, and it was evident that faulty versification in "A Midsummer Night's Dream," for example, could be attributed to the subsequent revision of the play by Shakespeare by marginal additions. Mr. Wilson further suggested that an examination of the punctuation of the manuscripts indicated the directions Shakespeare intended to convey to the actors concerning pauses and the way in which they were to recite their lines.

Women and Poetry.

Coulson Karnahan writes in the *Women's Magazine:*—By the very refinement of her nature, by the innate love of all that is beautiful, whether in the outer or the inner world, by her intuitive recoil from all that is evil or impure, by her greater tenderness and emotionability, and by her exquisite sensitiveness, a woman or girl is surely more poetical by temperament than a man. That there are so few great women-poets, as compared with men, I attribute partly to the fact that woman's life has too long been dwarfed by smaller issues, by domestic details, by the petty social precedences concerned with making or receiving calls—her chief knowledge of the outside world often not extending far beyond her own church or parish—while her menfolk are abroad in the world, bread-winning, battle-fighting, and with wider interests, in public, political, national, or world events.

All that is fast changing, and in the next generation I expect to see greater changes still, and many more women-poets.

Another reason why there are fewer women-poets than men is that women *live* the poetry which men *write*. "The House Beautiful," "The Happy child" —to name only two—might well stand as the titles of poems which every true woman has *lived* in her own home, but never published. Just as F. W. Robertson says that "to teach a few Sunday-school children, week after week, commonplace simple truths—persevering in spite of dulness and mean capacities—is a more glorious occupation than the highest manifestations or creations of genius which edify or instruct only our own solitary soul," so many a woman or girl, unknown to fame, is inscribing on the walls of her home, possibly on the hearts of other women, or of men and little children, the *lived*, if not the written, poetry which, hereafter, shall be accounted greater and more enduring than some of that which wins the world's applause.

Miscellaneous.

The Idler.

Among the objects of vertu and antiquities, the property of the late fifth Earl of Ashburnham recently sold by Messrs. Christie, a silver-and-gilt ring, with octagonal head bore the inscription "Oliver Goldsmith to Dr. Samuel Johnson, 1761." This was an interesting item adding a link to our knowledge of the friendship between these two literary men. Goldsmith was then thirtythree years old and had removed to Wine Office Court. The poet gave a supper on May 31, 1761, in honour of Johnson who was to pay him his first visit. It is recorded that Percy who called to take up Dr. Johnson, found him without his rusty brown suit, his soiled shirt, his unbuckled shoes and his shrivelled unpowdered wig. He had a new suit of clothes and a new wig nicely powdered. The transformation was explained by the Doctor: "Why Sir, I hear that Goldsmith, who is a very great sloven, justifies his disregard of cleanliness and decency by quoting my practice; and I am desirous this night to show him a better example." This is our only record connected with that memorable supper. It had no Boswell as historian; but this ring coming under the hammer was undoubtedly the tribute the host paid to the great lexicographer.

Saved by chance

Many priceless manuscripts owe their existence to accidental discoveries and chance savings which seem almost miraculous. The most wonderful of these recoveries is the manuscript of that famous document, the Magna Charta, which reached the British Museum as part of the contents of the Cottonian Library. Sir Robert Cotton in the reign of James I., visited his tailor and found him with a pile of parchments which he was using to cut out patterns of garments. Sir Robert entered the shop as the tailor took up his shears and thus saved for the British nation what is probably the most valuable piece of parchment in England.

Tennyson left the manuscript of "In Memoriam" in a cupboard where he kept his butter and sugar and when he was far away he wrote to his friend Coventry Patmore, asking him to call round and see if he could find a butcher's book in which he had written a number of lyrics. Patmore found the book. It was "In Memoriam."

King in Attic

The King of the Belgians who flew from Ostend to Deauville in his own aeroplane, landed in a field just outside the town. He was unable for some time to find a conveyance, and finally had to drive to a fashionable hotel in a disreputable "growler." The hotel clerk who met the King, seeing that he wore a grey lounge suit and a straw hat and had no luggage except an attache case, was far from impressed at the appearance of the visitor, and said he regretted that he had no rooms vacant. "But I must have a room," said the King. "I am the Comte de Rethy." The chief of the reception department then came up, and said that he might be able to find a small room for the count—a species now at a discount on the Continent—in the servants' quarters on the top floor. The King, who signed the register as "Comte de Rethy, born at Brussels, Christian name Albert, profession, officer," was taken to an attic, which he solemnly occupied.

A few minutes later a Belgian officer in uniform ran breathlessly into the hotel.

"Has the King arrived yet?" he asked. "What King?" was the surprised exclamation. The situation was quickly explained, and the King was found in the attic having a wash. He was immediately installed in suitable apartments.

Barrister's Dress

"Do not appear wearing a dirty shirt with a dirty soft collar when you have occasion to come to this court" was the advice given to a junior Indian barrister by Mr. Justice Walmsley presiding over the Calcutta High Court Criminal Bench with Mr. Justice Suhrawardy on Monday. The barrister in question moved Their Lordships on behalf of a woman whose petition of complaint was dismissed by a Presidency Magistrate on the basis of a police report. In issuing a rule Mr. Justice Walmsley inquired whether counsel ordinarily practised in the Police Court. The reply being in the affirmative, His Lordship read a homily regarding the proper dress of a counsel appearing in the High Court. The barrister in question fully appreciated the remark, blushed and bowed to His Lordship and hurriedly withdrew from the court room. This gentleman's neglect of proper dress is evidently worse than that of the Madras Vakil who once appeared in a flaming red tie and occasioned a remark from the Bench about "the thunder and lightning colours" of his dress.

A Queer Egg

Mr. W. Ireland, of the Royal Oak Hotel, Norton, Malton, has a hen which has just laid an egg with a

face of a clock on the shell. The hen went one better than the clock, for there were 13 figures on the dial instead of 12. Perhaps the hen had been told about putting the clock back.

Olla Podrida.

Mr. Lloyd George has presented Mr. Montagu's head on a charger to the Die-Hards. So Montagu says. If his head had been already presented, how did it appear at Cambridge and say so!

* * *

Right Honourable V. S. S. Sastri feasted Lord Lytton recently with viands of eloquence and congratulated him on going to peaceful Bengal in a peaceful time. This is not wonderful at all, as Mr. Sastri is returning from Peace Conference.

* * *

I read recently that on ounce of radium is worth £ 1,000,000. If I have a fraction of an ounce of radium, how radiant would I be!

* * *

Quite recently wolves attacked a running train in Eastern Europe. The country has been devastated by famine, and every one is, hungry, including the wolves. Thus it has become increasingly difficult to keep the wolf from the door.

* * *

But such are the penalties of modern civilisation and we cannot pick the pleasures of civilisation and drop the penalties. M. Breguet is arranging to fly from Paris to New York in twenty-four hours. What dost Thou say, O Atlantic Ocean? Where will you sink in shame?

* * *

Quite recently a *Swayamvara* on the Puranic lines was held at Benares. The resuscitation of Kurukshetra is going on. So India is having reversions as well as promotions. I hope that the India Government Gazette will duly announce these.

* * *

Lenin is announced to be politically dead and physically dying. I am getting political too. I began today with George's presentation of Montagu's head on a charger.

* * *

Quite recently the German youth sent a mild reminder to the British youth that they were training themselves for revenge. So young Germany is getting ready for the next war. What a wretched thing is modern civilisation!

* * *

In the Godavery District at a village festival one party sang "Down with the White man's rule" and another party sang "Down with the Black man's rule." How full of folly is the world!

* * *

The newspapers print and perpetuate these follies. We are gravely informed that two lions—one male and the other female—have arrived at the Madras Zoo. But we know already that there are already many lions at the Zoo known as Madras.

* * *

The Right Honourable has been dining and dinning much of late. It seems that Dr. Besant is going to feed him. Both are going to Australia. Let the Kangaroos look out.

* * *

Talking of Australia, did you read the recent twaddle about peopling Australia." Lord Northcliffe, the Kaiser of journalism, gave very sound advice upon the matter. He asked the hearers to keep Australia white and to be careful as to whom they let in. This means that Australia should allow, nay welcome, British immigrants. The doctrine of whitemanity threatens to replace the doctrine of humanity. How Machiavellian and Metzcheau! Yet we talk of leagues of nations and disarmament conferences When! What humbug!

* * *

The Budgets are all over and retrenchments are going on vigorously. The cows and bulls and horses are properly starved while rats and bandicoots and elephants of all complexions are being fed better than ever. This is what is called retrenchment.

SCRUTATOR.

Premier and Mr. Montagu.

Other Cases.

THE CABINET DOCTRINE OF MR. GLADSTONE.

["Such action is totally incompatible with the collective responsibility of the Cabinet to Parliament." —The Prime Minister to Mr. Montagu, 9th March, 1922.]

Captain Wedgwood Ben, M. P., writing in the "Westminster Gazette" says:—

After the decay of Parliamentary authority, the destruction of Cabinet responsibility, then a Junta, leading to a Dictatorship, these are the stages we are witnessing. The evil originates in the weakness of Parliament. Nominated by recommendation, "critics" not being wanted, the present House has shown the expected docility. Vehement champions of economy in the constituencies, its members have never plucked up courage to vote for economy at Westminster, and dare not even demand for their own Estimates Committee the powers granted (with effect) to an outside body under Sir Eric Geddes. The decay of Parliament is naturally followed by the destruction of Cabinet responsibility. We have all frequently heard Ministers explain that while they themselves favour demands made on them, they cannot prevail over the Treasury. Lord Grey has been attacked by those who were fellow-members of the Cabinet. The Admiralty published their stubborn views on a vital matter, and Mr. Chamberlain, when questioned as to Cabinet responsibility blithely replied: "That is an easy question. The First Lord of the Admiralty was on the Atlantic." (16 February, 1922.)

Two years ago there was a worse offence than Mr. Montagu's. Has the Prime Minister forgotten Mr. Churchill's article (of 28 July, 1920), published at a critical time of negotiation between France, Poland, and ourselves, wherein he offered to Germany "an awful, a wonderful choice" to join the White forces of the world in the organised opposition to Russia? Neither Mr Churchill, Lord Lee, nor Mr. Amery were told that they could not "usefully co-operate in the same Cabinet." Why? Because the third stage had been reached—Dictatorship through a Junta. For M. Poincare to find himself reported as addressing the Prime Minister as Monsieur le President, for the newspapers to say that Mr. Lloyd George had gone to Cannes with Sir Robert Horne in attendance, these were doubtless journalistic steps, but the Junta is real.

THE INTERIOR CABINET.

On 19 July last the Government was defeated in the House of Commons. The customary course of

immediate adjournment was not taken but the Leader of the House made a statement at the rising of the House. He said, "I had to consider what course we should pursue.......I decided that......the Government would accept the decision." Even of the present incident the Press Association says, "Mr. Lloyd George then called together those of his colleagues most readily available, and was joined by the Lord Chancellor, Mr. Chamberlain, and Mr. Churchill. They arrived at the speedy and unanimous decision that Mr. Montagu could not properly retain his office." Of course, the Cabinet "subsequently fully approved." (10 March, 1922.)

The "interior Cabinet" said the Duke of Richmond in 1781," had been the ruin of the country," and so to-day. To speak of a necessary sacrifice to "collective responsibility to Parliament" is absurd for there is no such responsibility. The Prime Minister is himself, by deliberate choice, an absentee. His power has extended beyond that belonging to his office (witness a recent incident which resembled the dismissal of a judge—a prerogative of Parliament alone.)

It is timely to repeat the familiar definition of the office by Mr. Gladstone, himself four times a Prime Minister:

"The head of the British Government is not a grand Vizier. He has no powers properly so-called over his colleagues! On the rare occasions when the Cabinet decides its course by the votes of its members, his vote counts only as one of them."

The "Jacket" that Sells.

We take the following from the *Graphic*:—

"I like the jacket you have chosen for me," a young authoress recently wrote to a London publisher who need not be named. His wife happened upon that letter, and it made a moment of difficulty for him and her, though, dear lady, she should have known better. "Jacket," he said; "yes for her new novel—the coloured wrapper, you know, in which stories now go forth into the world......"

Most of us can remember when books were published without "jackets," for, in the days of fit if few readers, only the inside was supposed to matter. The grave patrons of Mudie's did not, in the Victorian age, need to be intrigued to read by pretty pictures, not they! But there was something to say for a sort of folding of paper, which would keep a book clean while it was being sold in our dirty climate, and especially on the railway bookstalls. Often this wrapper was quite plain, which threw up an awkwardness, because, to identify the book, one had to remove it. Accordingly the title, the author's name, that of the publisher, and perhaps the price of the book came to be printed on the folder.

The "jacket" grew on these lines, first in a negative way as a protection for a book, then, in addition to that, as a modest herald of that book's case with the public, and finally, as the embellishment it is to-day. Where you have a serious book, it is enough to proclaim its mission in bold print, and perhaps give a portrait of the writer or one of his illustrations. Thus the "serious" reader learns enough at a glance to know whether the book is in his line, and this saves the turning over and perhaps the soiling of its pages.

It is when you come to the novel, however, that you come to the "jacket" in its glory. Here it has become an art, like that much larger affair the cinema, with which, somehow, one associates it. Possibly the habit of the "pictures" has caused the general reader to look for colour about his books, and certainly he gets it in the "jackets." When these are good they have three qualities—truth to some scene in the story, the suggestion that it is eminently worth reading and a sense of artistry in the drawing. A taking heroine, a handsome hero, a dramatic scene flung full at the eye—how possibly are such forceful appeals to be resisted by somebody looking for a story to read?

Next to a good title, which is all important for its effect on the psychology of possible readers, nothing is more valuable than a striking "jacket" in giving a novel a start. The title intrigues the mind, the "jacket."

China.

Dr. Sudhindra Bose, Professor of Political Science in the University of Iowa, U. S. A., writes in the *Modern Review*:—It was a dusty June afternoon. We were sipping tea at a restaurant not far from the famous Chien Men (Front Gate), Peking.

"What do I think of the Chinese civilization?" asked the English missionary as he looked hard at me across the marble-topped table. "Not much."

"But" I put in quietly, "even you missionaries can't deny that the Chinese are a cultured people. They, in common with the people of India made great contributions to the civilization of the world, at the time when your ancestors were but howling savages. Isn't that so?"

He grew red in the face instantly. He gnashed his teeth and clenched his fists. I saw that a storm was coming.

"Oh, I heard that the Chinese made a few little things in the past; but they surely are an inferior race of people," the missionary broke out with little pretence at ordinary courtesy toward the nation whose hospitality he was enjoying. "The Chinese are heathen!"

There you are! The heathen—the heathen. That was the moral and intellectual climax of this missionary argument. His mind—he of the "revealed" bible and dogmatic theology—fed upon stupid prejudice and blind intolerance, seemed almost incapable of higher truths. He was a pathetic victim of dangerous zealotry, of religious hysteria. To reason with him was likely to be as fruitful as to reason with Chien Men.

To one, however, who comes to China with openness of mind, the following facts may be of some interest:

1. China is the largest country with an area of 4,000,000 square miles in the largest continent of the world—Asia.

2. China with her 400,000,000 inhabitants has the greatest man-power.

3. China has the most authentic continuous history from the earliest time to the present.

4. China is the one of the countries most noted for filial piety.

5. The Chinese are among the earliest inventors of the world, having invented, among others, paper, printing, magnetic compass, gunpowder.

6. It was from China that the culture of silk was introduced into Europe in 550 A. D.

7. To China belongs the credit for one of the wonders of the world—The Great Wall, which is 1400 miles long.

8. China first issued paper money a thousand years before Christ.

9. China overthrew one of the oldest of monarchies and became a republic in the shortest possible time and with least bloodshed.

10. China is the nation which has today more students studying abroad than any other.

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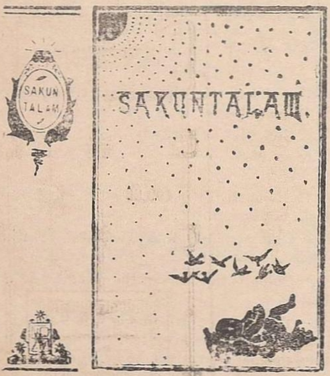

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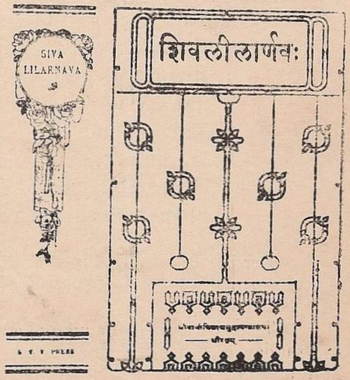

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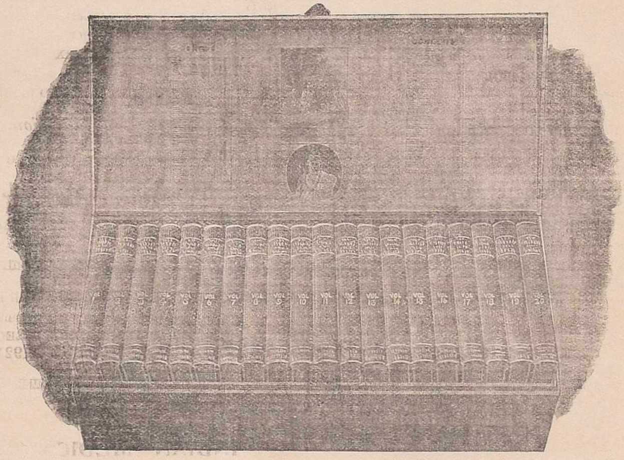

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